

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FREETO 01796 01 OF 02 070753Z

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 IGA-02
AID-05 /085 W

-----070816Z 094002 /10

R 061622Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5506

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 FREETOWN 1796

LONDON FOR SEITZ

MONROVIA FOR DATT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SL

SUBJ: MILITARY TRAINING FOR SIERRA LEONE ARMY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: BOTH PRESIDENT STEVENS AND ARMY COMMANDER MOMOH ASKED AMBASSADOR SAMUELS IF THE USG COULD PROVIDE TRAINING AND SOME MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY TO REPLACE, IN PART, UK ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADOR SAMUELS EXPLAINED THAT USG POLICY CONCERNING SALE AND TRANSFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY MADE IT UNLIKELY THAT THE REQUESTS COULD BE HONORED. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT PROPOSE A BILATERAL MILITARY PROGRAM FOR SIERRA LEONE, BUT WONDERES WHETHER A MULTILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER NATO AUSPICES SHOULD NOT BE FORMULATED TO DIMINISH CHANCES THAT FLUCTUATIONS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL TURN INTO A SEARCH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 FREETO 01796 01 OF 02 070753Z

FOR ALTERNATE SOURCES OF SUCH ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING AMBASSADOR SAMUELS' CALL ON PRESIDENT STEVENS, MAY 17, AND AGAIN DURING HIS CALL ON SIERRA LEONE ARMY FORCE COMMANDER, BRIGADIER MOMOH, ON MAY 19, THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY AROSE. BOTH PRESIDENT STEVENS AND BRIGADIER MOMOH TOLD THE AMBASSADOR

THAT THEY FOUND DEALING WITH THE BRITISH INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. STEVENS SAID "BY TEMPERMENT THE BRITISH WERE NOT WELL QUALIFIED TO DEAL WITH AFRICANS AND HAD FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF THEIR OWN". PRESIDENT STEVENS SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF THERE WERE WAYS IN WHICH HIS MILITARY FORCES COULD RECEIVE TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES AND PERHAPS SOME SMALL ARMS OR OTHER EQUIPMENT.

2. AMBASSADOR SAMUELS REPLIED THAT THE USG WAS CONSTRAINED BY CONGRESSIONALLY INITIATED LEGISLATION IN THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO WHICH IT COULD GIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE. AS A RESULT, IT WAS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A COUNTRY NOT PRESENTLY RECEIVING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO RECEIVE IT. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CURRENTLY WAS REASSESSING ITS ARMS POLICY AND WAS LOOKING AT SUCH QUESTIONS AS TRAINING, SMALL SCALE NON-LETHAL MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, AND ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY ORIGINATED CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS. HE WAS SKEPTICAL, HE SAID, WHETHER A STAGE WOULD BE REACHED WHEREBY THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY MIGHT BECOME A RECIPIENT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND EVEN QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS WAS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. DURING THE SUBSEQUENT CALL ON BRIGADIER MOMOH, THE BRIGADIER EXPLAINED THAT THE ARMY FELT IT SHOULD REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON BRITISH TRAINING SOURCES AND SUPPLIES. MOMOH EXPLAINED THAT THE TRAINING OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL NOW IN BRITAIN WAS COSTING THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY APPROXIMATELY LE600 PER WEEK FOR EACH STUDENT. HE SAID THAT IN AN ATTEMPT TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF TRAINING AND TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE UPON BRITISH SERVICE SCHOOLS, THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY HAD BEGUN SENDING A NUMBER OF SOLDIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 FREETO 01796 01 OF 02 070753Z

TO ARUSHA IN TANZANIA AND ALSO TO EGYPT. MOMOH SAID THE TRAINING OF CADETS AND SOLDIERS BY OTHER FORMER BRITISH COLONIES POSED NO PROBLEMS BECAUSE THEIR TRAINING METHODS AND STANDARDS WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF BRITAIN. HOWEVER, HE FEARED THAT EGYPT'S STANDARDS WOULD NOT CONFORM TO THOSE OF THE COMMONWEALTH AND THAT THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY WOULD HAVE TO JUDGE THE RESULTS OF THE EGYPTIAN TRAINING METHODS WHEN THE PRESENT GROUP OF TRAINEES RETURNED. THE BRIGADIER EMPHASIZED THAT THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY NEEDED TECHNICAL TRAINING IN SUCH SUBJECTS AS ENGINEERING, COMMUNICATIONS, LOGISTICS, AND CERTAIN CIVIC ACTION TYPE PROGRAMS. MOMOH SAID HE PERSONALLY FAVORED THE TRAINING OF SIERRA LEONE SOLDIERS BY OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS SINCE HE WAS PERSUADED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ALL AFRICAN ARMY WAS MERELY A MATTER OF TIME. IN PASSING HE NOTED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE OAU COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE POLICY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FREETO 01796 02 OF 02 070812Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 IGA-02
AID-05 /085 W

-----070815Z 094163 /12

R 061622Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5507
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 FREETOWN 1796

LONDON FOR SEITZ

MONROVIA FOR DATT

4. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE SAME SUBJECT AND HAD EXPLAINED WHY HE FELT IT WAS UNLIKELY THE USG COULD AGREE TO THE TRAINING OF SIERRA LEONE SOLDIERS IN THE UNITED STATES. HE POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY HAD ENUNCIATED A MORE STRINGENT POLICY CONCERNING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY AND THAT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY DEVOTED FOR FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS BEING CURTAILED SHARPLY. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT TRAINING COSTS IN THE U.S. PROBABLY WOULD BE FAR HIGHER THAN EVEN THOSE IN BRITAIN.

5. MOMOH ACCEPTED THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS AS THOUGH HE HAD EXPECTED THIS REPLY. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT AFRICAN ARMIES NEEDED TO OBTAIN SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND IF THEY COULD NOT OBTAIN IT FROM THE UNITED STATES THEN THEY WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 FREETO 01796 02 OF 02 070812Z

RECEIVE IT FROM SOMEONE ELSE.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BOTH STEVENS AND MOMOH PUBLICLY HAVE SPOKEN OF THE NEED TO HAVE THE ARMY'S ENGINEERING UNIT UNDERTAKE CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS. SUCH PROJECTS WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO SIERRA LEONE CONSIDERING THE VAST AMOUNT OF INFRASTRUCTURE STILL REQUIRED BY THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THE REQUESTS FOR MILITARY TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE PROBABLY RELATE MORE TO THE PRESIDENT'S WATH AT THE "LONDON TIMES" EDITORIAL CRITICIZING THE LECTION (FREETOWN 1620 NOTAL) THAT TO A SUDDEN DECISION TO PROMOTE ARMY CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS, OR TO A FEAR BRITAIN WILL DECREASE ITS LIMITED MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THE BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER RECENTLY SAID THAT BRITISH MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY IS EXPECTED TO RISE SLIGHTLY OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

7. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT PROPOSE THAT THE USG ENTER A BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SIERRA LEONE ARMY, ALTHOUGH A FEW TRAINING ALLOCATIONS WOULD FACILITATE GREATLY OUR ACCESS TO THE MILITARY. NEVERTHELESS, THE REQUESTS RAISE THE QUESTION WHETHER SOME ALTERNATIVE FORM OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AFRICAN NATIONS SHOULD NOT BE DEVISED SO THAT FLUCUATIONS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE NOT NECESSARILY TRANSLATED INTO A SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF MILITARY SUPPORT AND TRAINING. AT THE RISK OF BEING ACCUSED OF REDISCOVERING THE WHEEL, THIS POST WONDERS IF NATO COULD NOT ASSUME A MAJOR ROLE IN AFRICA TO PROVIDE MILITILATERAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF TRAINING AND NON-LETHAL MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. END COMMENT.

NORTH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977FREETO01796
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770202-0150
Format: TEL
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770688/aaaaczdk.tel
Line Count: 198
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c984b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2267071
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY TRAINING FOR SIERRA LEONE ARMY
TAGS: MASS, SL, US, (STEVENS, SIAKA P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c984b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009